

Section I (Amendments to the Claims)

Please amend claims 1-6, 15, 17 and 18 as set out in the following listing of the claims of the application.

1. (Currently amended) A method of treating, ~~, preventing, or reducing the development of~~ an atherosclerosis-associated disease in a patient in need thereof, said method comprising administering to said patient ~~a rifamycin~~ rifalazil in an amount effective to treat, ~~, prevent,~~ ~~or reduce the development of~~ said atherosclerosis-associated disease in said patient.
2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~said rifamycin~~ rifalazil is administered in an amount ranging between 0.001 and 100 mg.
3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein ~~said rifamycin~~ rifalazil is administered in an amount ranging between 1 and 50 mg.
4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~said rifamycin~~ rifalazil is administered in an amount ranging between 5 and 25 mg/week.
5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4, wherein ~~said rifamycin~~ rifalazil is administered in an amount ranging between 2.5 and 25 mg/day.
6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~said rifamycin~~ rifalazil is administered at an initial dose of 2.5 mg to 100 mg for one to seven consecutive days, followed by a maintenance dose of 0.005 to 10 mg once every one to seven days.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said patient is further administered a second therapeutic agent.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein second therapeutic agent is an anti-inflammatory agent, antibacterial agent, platelet aggregation inhibitor, anticoagulant, antipyretic, or lipid-lowering agent.

9. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 8, wherein said anti-inflammatory agent is ibuprofen, meloxicam, celecoxib, rofecoxib, aspirin, dexamethasone, methylprednisolone, prednisolone, or prednisone.

10. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 8, wherein said antipyretic is acetaminophen.

11. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 8, wherein said antibacterial agent is azithromycin, clarithromycin, erythromycin, gatifloxacin, levofloxacin, amoxicillin, or metronidazole.

12. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein said lipid-lowering agent is a statin.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said statin is atorvastatin, rosuvastatin, lovastatin, simvastatin, pravastatin, cerivastatin, or fluvastatin.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said atherosclerosis-associated disease is coronary artery disease, myocardial infarction, angina pectoris, stroke, cerebral ischemia, intermittent claudication, gangrene, mesenteric ischemia, temporal arteritis, or renal artery stenosis.

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein, prior to administration of rifalazil said rifamycin, said patient is diagnosed as having said atherosclerosis-associated disease.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said patient has not been diagnosed as having a bacterial infection.

17. (Currently amended) A method of reducing the level of C-reactive protein in a patient identified as having increased levels of C-reactive protein, said method comprising administering to said patient ~~a rifamycin~~ rifalazil in an amount sufficient to reduce the level of C-reactive protein.
18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 17, wherein said method further comprises the step of periodically monitoring the level of C-reactive protein in said patient following administration of ~~said rifamycin~~ rifalazil.
19. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein said patient has not been diagnosed as having a bacterial infection.
20. (Currently amended) A method for reducing Chlamydia pneumoniae replication in macrophages or foam cells in a patient in need thereof, said method comprising administering ~~a rifamycin~~ rifalazil to said patient in an amount effective to reduce Chlamydia pneumoniae replication in macrophages or foam cells in said patient.
21. (Currently amended) A method for treating a persistent Chlamydia pneumoniae infection in macrophages or foam cells in a patient, said method comprising administering ~~a rifamycin~~ rifalazil to said patient in an amount effective to treat said Chlamydia pneumoniae infection in macrophages or foam cells in said patient.